

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELFAS 00075 171328Z

45

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-11

DHA-02 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SCCT-01 /085 W

----- 115876

R 171241Z FEB 76

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1205

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 075

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: VIOLENCE FOLLOWING STAGG DEATH CONTINUES

1. THERE NOW MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED (REPEAT) TWO HUNDRED VIOLENT INCIDENTS IN NORTHERN IRELAND SINCE DEATH OF HUNGER-STRIKER FRANK STAGG FEB. 12. THESE INCLUDE SOME 70 SHOOTING INCIDENTS DIRECTED AGAINST SECURITY FORCES AND MORTAR ATTACKS ON ARMY BARRACKS IN BELFAST. A DOZEN MORTAR ROUNDS FIRED WITHOUT SERIOUS EFFECT AT TWO CENTERS BELFAST IN FIRST SUCH INCIDENTS IN ALMOST TWO YEARS. ARMY STATION ON DIVIS MOUNTAIN BELFAST ATTACKED BY SOME 20 RIFLEMEN IN TWO HOUR FIGHT NIGHT FEB. 15-16. EIGHT PEOPLE HAVE DIED INCLUDING ONE 17 YEAR OLD MEMBER PROVISIONAL IRA WHO APPARENTLY TRAPPED INSIDE BURNED FURNITURE WAREHOUSE SITUATED NEXT TO HOME MP GERRY FITT. FITT AND OTHER LEADERS SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY WARNED BY POLICE LAST WEEK THEY ON PROVISIONAL IRA DEATH LIST. HOME OF SDLP CONVENTION MEMBER IVAN COOPER (PROTESTANT) IN STRABANE ATTACKED BY MOB FEB. 16. OTHER DEAD INCLUDE THREE WOMEN WHO SHOT NIGHT FEB. 15 IN WHAT MAY HAVE BEEN ROBBERY ATTEMPT AND YOUNG ROMAN CATHOLIC MALE WHO KILLED BELFAST BY ARMY PATROL IN ACT

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PAGE 02 BELFAS 00075 171328Z

OF SHOOTING PROTESTANT PEDESTRIANS. CATHOLIC MALE

KILLED IN BOMB EXPLOSION FEB. 12 (BELFAST 71) WAS
LIEUTENANT IN PROVISIONALS. THERE RIOT SITUATIONS IN
BELFAST AND LONDONDERRY OVER WEEKEND WITH LONDONDERRY
POST OFFICE SORTING OFFICE BURNED OUT AND TWO-HOUR
CLASH FEB. 14 BETWEEN SECURITY FORCES AND MOB IN BELFAST
STREET BEHIND CONGEN OFFICE. MORE THAN 130 INDIVIDUALS
ARRESTED ON RANGE OF CHARGES TO FEB. 17.

2. TWO MASSIVE PROXY BOMBINGS IN PROVINCE SUCCESSFUL
AND IN THIS AND LESS SUCCESSFUL SHOOTING AND BOMBING
ATTACKS ON SECURITY FORCES PROVISIONAL IRA BELIEVED
RESPONSIBLE. HOWEVER OTHER PREDOMINANT FEATURES,
HIJACKING AND ARSON OF AUTOMOBILES AND TRUCKS AND SOME
MOB ACTION APPEARS UNCOORDINATED. FOR EXAMPLE SEVERAL
YOUTHS HAVE BEEN HURT AND ONE KILLED BY EXPLOSIONS
GASOLINE TANKS IN FIRED VEHICLES. GROUP CALLING ITSELF
IRISH VOLUNTEER FORCE (IVF) CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR
SHOOTING RESERVE POLICE CONSTABLE COUNTY DERRY (BELFAST 71)
AND THIS GROUP CLAIMING TO BE BREAKAWAY UNIT OF PROVISIONALS.
PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN SPOKESMEN INCLUDING VP MAIRE DRUMM
HAVE DENIED BOMBINGS IN DUBLIN FEB. 14 AND BOMBING ATTEMPTS
IN LONDON HAVE BEEN WORK OF "REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT." IVF
MAY INDEED BE BREAKAWAY PROVISIONAL UNIT IDENTIFIED WITH
FOLLOWERS OF EDDIE GALLAGHER WHOSE KIDNAPPING OF DUTCH
INDUSTRIALIST TIEDER HERREMA LAST YEAR REPORTEDLY
BROUGHT DISFAVOR OF PROVISIONAL LEADERSHIP.

3. LONG-TIME OBSERVERS OF NORTHERN IRELAND SCENE AND
SOME POLICE OFFICIALS SEE DECLINE IN MASS SUPPORT FOR
PROVISIONALS. DESPITE THE INCIDENCES OF VIOLENCE IT IS
EXPLAINED THAT THE SIZE OF THE DEMONSTRATING MOBS
NOW IS MARKEDLY SMALLER THAN IN OTHER YEARS. THERE
IS SOME SUSPICION AMONG NEWSMEN BELFAST HOWEVER THAT
ARMY IS CONCEALING INFORMATION ON TROOP CASUALTIES AND
THERE IS THEORY THAT PROVISIONALS STILL HOLDING BACK
UNTIL AFTER FUNERAL FRANK STAGG. SIDESHOW IS RENEWAL
ACTIVE HOSTILITY BETWEEN PROVISIONAL AND OFFICIAL IRA.
REPUBLICAN CLUBS HAVE CHARGED ONE OF THEIR MEMBERS
SHOT DELIBERATELY BY PROVISIONALS FEB. 14.

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PAGE 03 BELFAS 00075 171328Z

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